



SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

- DRAFT -

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: In person (below) and remote options.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Headquarters
4232 Las Virgenes Road #1994
Calabasas, CA 91302

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Governing Board meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. Commission staff provided an overview of the meeting protocols. Introductions followed.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

Commission staff read written comments regarding tribal engagement from Gabrielle Crow, who was not in attendance.

Craig Cadwallader commented on the Safe Clean Water Program and the consideration and adoption of plastics restrictions in the County and City of Los Angeles (LA).

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Items 3a and 3b were moved before item 2e without objection. Moved: Eric Alegria. Seconded: James Stahl.

b) Report from the Chair

Chair Caspary reported on the March 17, 2022 Executive Committee meeting, which included establishing the April 21, 2022 Governing Board meeting agenda, prioritizing informational items for future Governing Board meetings, reports on Commission staff and The Bay Foundation activities, and updates on hybrid meeting preparation and the anticipated guidance on additional National Estuary Program (NEP) funding from the federal bipartisan infrastructure law.

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c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

There were no reports from the Technical Advisory Committee.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Director

Marissa Caringella announced the following changes to the Governing Board's membership:

- Steve Uhring is now serving as a member representing Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu);
- Keith Lilley is the new alternate for LA County Department of Public Works;
- Warren Ontiveros is the new alternate for LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors;
- Maura Monagan is the new alternate for LA Waterkeeper;
- Tessa Charnofsky and Sophie Freeman are the new alternates for LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District); and
- Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay) is departing from the Commission.

Caringella invited Shelley Luce to say a few words. Caringella reported on collaborating with The Bay Foundation to respond to comments on the draft Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Work Plan and develop the semi-annual report. Caringella also reported on Commission staff activities, including management of Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 grants, initiating development of the State of the Bay Report, scheduling informational items and securing in-person meeting locations for future Governing Board meetings. Caringella commented on the State Coastal Conservancy's development of their strategic plan, the release of a five-year Sea Level Action Plan by the Ocean Protection Council, and the Safe Clean Water Program's Stormwater Investment Plans.

Legal counsel Eric Gillman discussed Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements for hybrid meetings, including the need for remote members to notice and make their locations accessible to the public.

Tom Ford reported on the anticipated guidance on additional NEP funding from the federal bipartisan infrastructure law, development of the semi-annual report, participating in the performance evaluation for the Indian River Lagoon NEP in Florida, adoption of plastic restrictions by Los Angeles County, and the opening ceremony for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing. Ford also provided an

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update on SMBNEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including expanding the ReThink Disposable Program's outreach to Pacoima, Boyle Heights, South LA, and Wilmington; iceplant removal and restoring native vegetation at Manhattan Beach and the LAX dunes; eelgrass transplants; and preparing for abalone outplanting.

Member Comments

Members thanked Shelley Luce for her service and Commission staff's efforts to set up the hybrid meeting. Members commented on The Bay Foundation's public demonstration for the dune restoration at Zuma Beach, plastic restrictions, and the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing.

e) Reports from Members on Implementation of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Goals and Actions

Member Cung Nguyen provided an update on the Safe Clean Water Program, including the approval of the FY 2021-2022 Stormwater Investment Plans and the program committees' development of the FY 2022-2023 Stormwater Investment Plans.

Marissa Caringella provided an update from member Robert Godfrey, who was not in attendance, regarding the Marina Del Rey Angler's youth and veteran fishing programs this summer.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Dan Murphy. Seconded: Charlie Caspary. Abstained: Steve Uhring.

b) Consideration of Approval of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan

Caitlin Gray outlined the development of the SMBNEP FY23 Work Plan and opportunities to provide input and recommended the Governing Board approve the proposed final draft.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the draft FY23 Work Plan and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, including sea level rise.

Member Comments

Members commented on monitoring plans for small lagoons in the northern part of the bay.

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Chair Caspary commented on partnerships between agencies and the Commission.

Member Votes

The SMBNEP FY23 Work Plan was approved unanimously by roll-call vote.
Moved: James Stahl. Seconded: Eric Alegria.

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Presentation on the Statewide Perspective on Recycled Water -- State Water Resources Control Board

Claire Waggoner introduced this item and the staff of the State Water Quality Control Board (State Water Board) presenting on this item.

State Water Board staff outlined water resilience strategies; recycled water programs and partnerships; State Water Boards' funding opportunities for water recycling projects, including planning, construction, and research projects; the Recycled Water Policy, including goals, volumetric reporting requirements, wastewater and recycled water data for 2019 and 2020; upcoming regulatory developments related to on-site treatment and reuse, non-potable reuse, and direct potable reuse; and the Recycled Water Research Program.

Public Comments

Craig Cadwallader commented on West Basin Municipal Water District and City of Los Angeles' recycled water activities and making the presentation slides available to the public.

Member Comments

Members commented on recycled water's role in water resilience; water reuse differences across the state; water reuse during drought; desalination as a potential option to increase water supply; anticipated direct potable reuse regulations; goals of 100% recycled-water use in the West LA Basin; utilization of groundwater in the LA region; reducing reliance on imported water; large-scale stormwater capture and use; sewer overflows as a challenge associated with stormwater capture; maintaining water flows to habitats; the relative energy intensity of water recycling, importing water, recharging and pumping groundwater, and desalination; groundwater use and management by the LA County Sanitation District; and potential installation of solar panels over the State Water Project.

Claire Waggoner pointed members to the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater (STORMS) program for more information about stormwater capture, treatment, and use.

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Chair Caspary commented on Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's imported water and water recycling efforts.

b) Presentation on Kelp Forest Restoration Efforts – The Bay Foundation

This item was postponed for a future Governing Board meeting due to time constraints.

5) Other Businesses

c) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

d) Member Comment

There were no member comments.

e) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for June 16 at 9:30 a.m.)

The next Executive Committee meeting was announced for May 19 at 1:00 p.m. and the next Governing Board meeting for June 16 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates

Eric Alegria, South Bay Cities (City of Rancho Palos Verdes) – *via teleconference*

Abby Austin, Los Angeles City Council District 11

Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board

Edward Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)

Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Gabriela Cepeda-Rizo, Business/Economic Interest (Chevron)

Tessa Charnofsky, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)

Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy – *via teleconference*

Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)

Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Culver City) – *via teleconference*

Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division

Cung Nguyen, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works

James Stahl, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles

Clark Stevens, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)

Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors

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Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Steven Uhring, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Roberto Uranga, California Coastal Commission – *via teleconference*
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)

Non-voting Members/Alternates

Tom Ford, SMBNEP Director
Timothy Pershing, State Assembly 50th District

Commission and State Water Resources Control Board Staff

Marissa Caringella, Commission
Eric Gillman, State Water Resources Control Board
Caitlin Gray, Commission

Public Attendees

4 anonymous public attendees
Bob Lloyd, AGP Video Inc
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation
Jeanette Vosburg
Jing-Tying Chao, State Water Resources Control Board
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Laura McLellan, State Water Resources Control Board
Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation
Rebecca Greenwood, State Water Resources Control Board
Sandeep Kals, State Water Resources Control Board
Sherly Rosilela, State Water Resources Control Board
Tina Low, State Water Resources Control Board
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust